Amendments To Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating a change in distance between objects, said system including:

a head component having a tip, cutting threads, fastening threads, and a tool attachment, wherein said cutting threads are operable for insertion into and termination within an object, wherein said fastening threads are operable for mating with a thread formed by said cutting thread, and wherein said tool attachment is operable to receive a cannulated driver;

a flexible wire comprised of a thin metal having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end of said wire mates with said head component, said wire having a first interface along at least a portion of said wire, wherein said first interface includes a sawtooth configuration having a plurality of sawteeth, wherein said flexible wire is bendable without the use of tools and is able to be cut with a wire cutter, wherein said sawtooth configuration is configured such that one side of each tooth is substantially perpendicular to a surface of said wire and the other side of said sawtooth is substantially angular to said surface of said wire; and,

a cap which includes threads on an outside surface to facilitate rotating said cap into a first object, and wherein said cap includes a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from a second object, wherein said cap is configured to mate ~~mating~~ with said second end of said wire, said cap having a second interface component including an inverse sawtooth configuration on an inner surface of said cap such that said cap is configured to translate along said wire with ~~certain~~ a portion of said inverse sawtooth configuration sliding over ~~certain~~ a portion of said ~~sawteeth~~ sawtooth configuration, wherein said sawtooth configuration and said inverse sawtooth configuration are configured to allow said cap to translate along said wire in only one direction, and wherein said inverse sawtooth configuration includes a plurality of inverse teeth.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said ~~head component includes a~~ tip, said cutting threads and said fastening threads are each respectively replaceable with different types of said tip, different types of said cutting threads and different types of said fastening threads.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein said ~~head component includes a~~ tool attachment ~~which~~ mates with a tool head and is configured with a hex head.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~1~~ 3, wherein said cap includes a center hole for receiving said wire and additional openings for facilitating expansion of said cap.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~1~~ 7, further including a tensioner for applying tension to said wire.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein said tensioner includes a cannulated rod which receives said wire, said tensioner further includes gears having a third interface component which mates with said first interface of said wire to apply tension to said wire.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~1~~ 9, wherein said tensioner includes a gauge to determine the amount of tension.

11. (Withdrawn) A system for the fixation of a bone fracture having a first bone portion and a second bone portion, said system including:

a head component having cutting threads, said head component operable to be inserted into and terminate within a first bone portion;

a flexible wire comprised of a thin metal having a first end, and a second end, wherein said flexible wire is at least one of bendable without the use of tools and is able to be cut with a wire cutter, and wherein said first end of said flexible wire is affixed to said head component; and,

a cap comprising a planar disk having a central hole and a plurality of surrounding holes, each surrounding hole connected to the central hole via a cut, wherein said cap mates, without rotation of said cap, with said second end of said flexible wire by translating along said flexible wire while an inside surface of said cap restricts reverse translational movement to apply pressure between a first bone portion and a second bone portion.

12. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11, wherein said flexible wire is operable to extend through a second bone portion and said cap is operable to mate with said flexible wire against the surface of a second bone portion to exert tension on said flexible wire, thereby compressing the surface of a first bone portion and the surface of a second bone portion against each other.

13. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11, further comprising a surgical plate, said surgical plate operable to mate with the surface of a bone portion.

Claims 14-21 (Canceled).

22. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11, wherein said cap further includes threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into a bone, wherein said cap includes a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from a bone surface, a center hole for receiving said wire and additional openings for facilitating expansion of said cap.

23. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11, wherein said cap is further configured with threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said bone, wherein said cap is configured with a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from said bone surface, a center hole for receiving said wire, an additional opening, and a cut in a planar surface of said cap which extends to from said center hole to said additional opening for facilitating expansion of said cap.

24. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11, wherein said cap is further configured with threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said bone, wherein said cap is configured with a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from said bone surface, a center hole for receiving said wire, an additional opening and a cut in a planar surface of said cap which extends to from said additional opening to said outside surface of said cap for facilitating expansion of said cap.

Claim 25 (Canceled).

26. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap is configured with a spring to apply pressure to said cap.